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Maj. -Gen. John M. Corse

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MAJ.-GEN. JOHN M. CORSE.

When the Rev. Dr. William Salter was invited to prepare for THE ANNALS a sketch of his illustrious townsman, General John M. Corse, it was suggested that the space of twenty or thirty pages could be allotted to the subject. At the outset we believe Dr. Salter did not contemplate extending his sketch beyond the limits mentioned. But after looking up the data for the work—"reading up the subject"—he expressed some surprise at its extent, stating that the sketch would doubtless require four separate articles. But he does his work so well, his historical articles are so uniformly interesting and so permanently valuable, that he was promptly accorded all the space he should deem necessary for its adequate treatment. With this understanding he began the work, half or more of which is now before the reader. General Corse removed from our State several years before his death, and hence was to a great degree lost sight of by our people; but that he still regarded Iowa as his home is sufficiently evidenced by the fact that at his death his remains were brought back to Burlington for their final rest. Dr. Salter is performing his labor of love to the memory of this gallant soldier in a manner worthy of the highest praise. He has woven official orders, reports and despatches into a continuous and interesting narrative—leaving them to tell the story of General Corse's patriotic services. All this matter has been in existence ever since it was written in camp and field, thirty to thirty-five years ago, but it has until very recently been inaccessible to the public. In a general way it has been known that he was a trusted and valued lieutenant of General Sherman, but not until Dr. Salter's present work is completed and published will any one be privileged to read of General Corse's services as a continuous whole. So far as he has proceeded this can now be done, and

when he concludes his articles he will have presented to the people of Iowa one of the proudest military records that adorn her history.

Dr. Salter's article is most appropriately accompanied by a portrait of General O. O. Howard, and two facsimiles of interesting manuscripts. One of the latter is General Corse's famous reply to the rebel General French's demand for the surrender of the fort, "to prevent the useless effusion of blood;" and the other the congratulatory order of General Howard upon the brilliant and heroic defense of Allatoona. These documents in the hand-writing of Generals Corse and Howard belong to the Aldrich Collection in the Historical Department of Iowa.

Since the foregoing was written the Historical Department has secured two very fine photographs of General Corse, in the uniform of a Major-General. The negatives were made many years ago by Brady, who was the leading early photographer of New York and Washington. One is in standing and the other in sitting posture. We believe they are the most faithful likenesses of General Corse in existence, affording the best data yet discovered for his statue on the Iowa Soldiers' Monument, or for a life-size portrait in oil. Copies were at once ordered by the Monument Commission. These negatives had passed into other ownership and were practically forgotten, until a lucky accident brought them to light.

A CHARACTERISTIC ORDER OF GENERAL SCOTT.

In the year 1890 the widow of General A. C. Dodge, one of our first United States Senators, presented to the autograph collection, then in the Iowa State Library, the order book which General Henry Dodge kept while in the military service. It is especially full and complete during the Black Hawk War. The book is a folio volume of

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